

R E M A R K S

The claims have been amended by rewriting claims 1, 7, 11 and 12 and canceling claims 4, 5, 8 and 13. Claims 1- 3, 6, 7, 9-12 and 14-16 remain in the application.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Corrected formal drawings have been submitted for review by the Examiner

Objection to the Specification:

The specification has been amended by correcting the disclosed informalities.

In addition to those informalities noted by the Examiner, the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2 at page 1, line 33 has been amended to change “any” to --an--. Also, claim 11 has been corrected for an informality changing the word “communications” to --communicates--.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph:

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 7 has been amended to correct the antecedent basis for the “re-configurable electronic interface system” in line 10. The rejection is thus overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Burke et al. (6,466,994).

Independent claims 1, 7 and 12 have been amended to incorporate the connector pins associated with respective dependent claim 4, 5 (into claim 1), 8 (into claim 7) and 13 (into claim 12) in order to more clearly emphasize that the invention pertains to a reconfiguration of a physical/hardware interface.

Each of applicants' independent claims reconfigures the interface by configuring the actual pin interface between a host and secondary module/accessory. The Burke reference teaches away from this aspect of the invention in that Burke's receptacles (172, 176) are not reconfigurable. The receptacles (172, 176) of Burke are instead initially determined and must be physically changed later if a different module is desired to be connected but is physically incompatible. The interface in Burke is unaltered in its physical pin-out functionality. The Burke reference does not teach or suggest how the host device (150) would change the interface function of its receptacles (176).

In column 4, lines 55-65, Burke teaches that: “[t]he receptacles 172 and 176 are configured to connect with the port 104 and the port 152, respectively. In one embodiment, both port 104 and 152 are USB type A ports. In such an embodiment, the receptacles 172 and 176 are both USB type A receptacles. In one embodiment, the cabling 174 is compatible with USB interfaces. However, in another embodiment, the cabling is adapted to supply other inputs to the system board 100.” Thus, in Burke the physical interfacing of the host and any new module is pre-configured (i.e. pre-determined) and limited to a specific connection/configuration. When the connection type is required to change (i.e. another embodiment), then the physical interface or cabling in Burke must change as well. Applicants' invention, on the other hand, allows the host to have complete compatibility with a module, without ever having to create either a new connector, new cabling, or any human intervention in altering the interface connection.

Applicants' invention electrically configures the pins using the configurable logic. In Applicants' invention only the physical interface is being reconfigured - not the entire function of the accessory as is done in Burke. Thus, Applicants' invention provides a software reconfiguration of a hardware interface without a priori knowledge of the device.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 7 and 12, as amended, is believed to be overcome. Claims 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 11, and 14-16 provide further limitations to what are believed to be allowable claims and hence are also in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, this application is believed to be in proper form for allowance and an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees, to 50-2117.

Respectfully submitted,

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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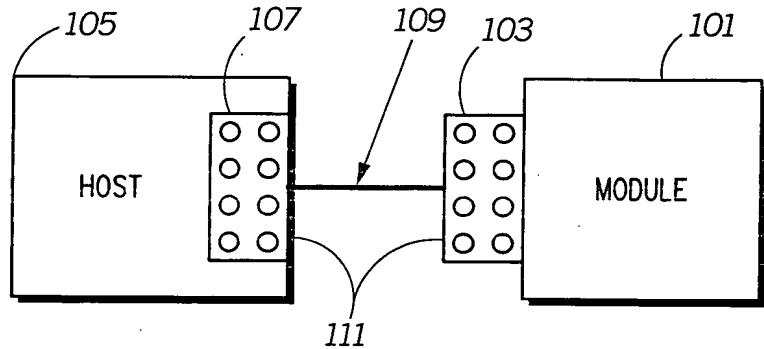
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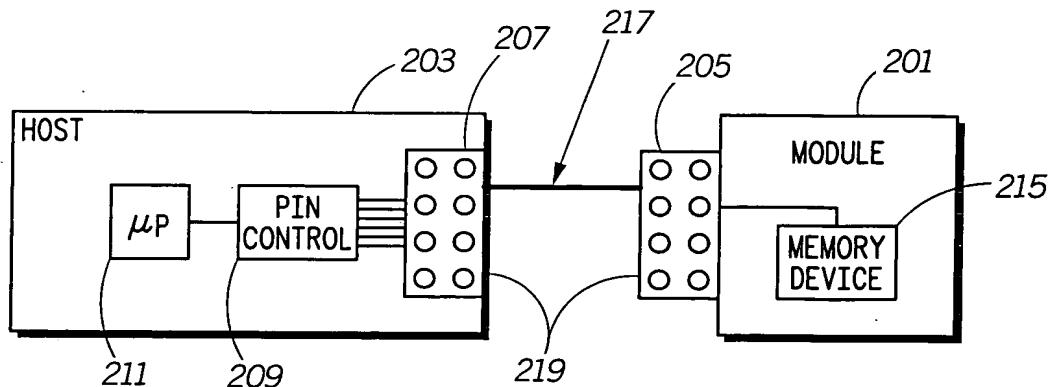
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PRIOR ART

100

FIG. 1



200

FIG. 2